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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6105
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3795
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3654
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4347
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KJUS](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: UK-PROMOTED REVISIONS ON JUVENILE
CRIME TO BE INCLUDED IN LAW

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (SBU) The UK has been working with the Turkmenistan government on a penal reform project. One element of the project was a 2008 trip by Institute for Democracy and Human Rights Director Shirin Akhmedova to the UK. Another part has been assistance in amending the criminal code. The UK Charge told us that Turkmenistan plans to include a new section in the amended law dealing with juvenile justice. Based on UK suggestions, there will be a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and education and less on punishment. Currently, there is no provision for educating incarcerated juvenile offenders. Juveniles will also have the right to more family visits and to receive more parcels than adult offenders.

¶3. (SBU) UNICEF has also been involved in this project and has brought in consultants from King's College and from an organization in Essex, England expert in juvenile law. Ideally, UNICEF would like to see Turkmenistan set up a separate juvenile justice system, but realizes that such a change is still a ways off. UNICEF believes the new criminal code should be passed by the parliament in March. After that, UNICEF will set up a pilot program in one of the provinces to help officials, including judges, with implementation.

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: It is important that this juvenile justice project has included not just assistance on revising the law, but also a component designed to aid with implementation. Many Turkmen laws are not bad as written, but there is a tremendous gap between what is on paper and implementation. END COMMENT.
CURRAN